

## Colors

**By:** Lau Chee Loong, Kang Eng Soo  
**Place:** Malaysia  
**Date:** 1999  
**Topic:** The Oneness of Humankind  
**Message:** *“The well-being of mankind, its peace and security, are unattainable unless and until its unity is firmly established.”*  
**Characters:** Yong (*Yellow*), Peter (*Purple*), Gary (*Green*), Ben (*Blue*), Mr. White (*shop owner*).  
**Setting:** *Mr. White's ice-cream parlour.*

*Yong, Peter, Gary and Ben are sitting chatting at a table.*

**Ben:** What a surprise you guys! 90% of what we've suspected was actually in the exams!

**Gary:** Not a big deal, right?

**Yong:** Okay, we do it most of the time, anyways.

**Gary:** Especially when predicted by Peter.

**Peter:** Come on... it's simply logic, right?

**Ben:** After all, this guy is the smartest one here.

**Yong:** (*To Mr. White*) Excuse me, can we order now?

**White:** Alright! What kind of ice-cream would you all like?

**Yong, Peter, Gary & Ben:** (*in chorus*) Vanilla!

**White:** No problem!

*Mr. White exits.*

**Gary:** Kind of hot, today...

**Ben:** Pikkante hot!

**Peter:** I don't like it.

*Mr. White returns with the ice-cream*

**White:** Here you go! Four bowls of vanilla ice-cream!

**Ben:** This is the most delicious ice-cream I have ever had!

**Gary:** Look at its colour, so green like the leaves and grass... it makes you feel fresh just looking at it!

**Yong:** Ha... you're colour-blind, aren't you?

**Peter:** Anyone with a bit of intelligence can tell you it's purple!

**Yong:** It's yellow!

**Peter:** I can't believe this. Come on guys. It's purple.

**Yong:** Wait a minute, guys. What makes you so sure? It's obviously yellow! What do you think Ben?

**Peter:** Yeah... Ben! Come on, say something intelligent! Purple or yellow?

**Ben:** Calm down you guys. I don't think we should be arguing about this... after all, I think it's blue.

**Gary:** Come on, it's a mistake. Blue and green are almost the same. You've probably just mistaken green as blue.

**Yong:** I don't get it, guys. Even my poor nanny knows that vanilla is yellow. Why can't you guys?

**Gary:** No, no, no! My daddy says it's green—so it's green!

**Ben:** Come on you guys! We've been able to agree on everything so far. Why are we arguing about ice-cream?

**Peter:** Listen all you silly, dumb color-blinded people! Green! Yellow! Blue! Can't you guys just listen to the smartest? It's obviously purple. Come on! When I say it's purple, that's final! I can't believe I've hung around with such a dummies for so long!

**Yong & Gary:** What?!! Dummies?!!

**Peter:** *Yeah*, that's right! Dummies!

**Yong:** Who do you think you are? It's obviously yellow!

*They all start arguing.*

## DISCUSSION

*Mr. White enters.*

**White:** Calm down, everyone! What seems to be the problem here?

**Ben:** It's all because you've served us four different colours of vanilla ice cream. I mean that's why...

**White:** What different colours?

**Gary:** Green.

**Yong:** Yellow.

**Ben:** Blue.

**Peter:** Purple.

**White:** Ha... poor fellows. My vanilla ice-cream is as white as snow. Can't any of you see that?

**Peter:** What?

**Yong & Gary:** White?

**White:** You've all come from different cultures. Each one of you has been taught differently by your forefathers. The truth can only be revealed if and when you remove the glasses of prejudice.

**Ben:** But... these glasses are like our tradition.

**Gary:** Our beliefs!

**Yong:** Our culture!

**Peter:** Our life...

**White:** Be brave and face the truth... It's your choice!

*Mr. White leaves. Friends take off their glasses.*

**Ben:** Wow!

**Yong:** Can you see what I see?

**Gary:** Ah... white... Look, they're all the same!

**Peter:** What the same?!? You get more than I do!

**Ben:** Oh, Peter! Stop looking at the differences! It's all about the taste!

*They all put their glasses on, but immediately take them off.*